months (16th April, 1986 to 15th July, 1986) are as under:

Crime Head	No. of cases
Robbery	46
Dacoity	2

(b) The total loss of life and property in cases of roberry and dacoity reported during the period from 16-4-1986 to 15-7-1986 are as under:—

Loss of life	No of cases
Robbery	2
Dacoity	2

Loss of property	
Robbery	Rs. 6,63,019
Dacoity	Rs. 3,700

(c) A number of steps have been taken by Delhi Police to control crime such as increased foot and mobile patrolling, intensive checking of hotels and guest houses, posting of pickets at vulnerable places, action against bad characters and known criminals, vigilance at crowded places, initiating externment proceedings, appointment of Specia] Police officers and Inter State/Inter District crime review meetings.

Clearing of rivers in South India

970. PROF. C- LAKSHMANNA f Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleas-ed to state what are the rivers in South India for which cleaning and purification operations are likely to be taken up on the pattern of Ganga Action Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE JN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): Presently, no plan on the pattern of Ganga Action Plan is envisaged for the rivers in the South India. However, river basin-wise studies and river water quality monitoring for Krishna and Kaveri have been undertaken.

Reviewing: of zonal councils

971. SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)' whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article 'Need to review Zonal Councils' by A.G. Noorani appearing in the "Indian Express' ol' July 11, 1986;

(b) what are the contents of Mw recent letter from the Zonal Council Secretariat which is alleged to have flouted the basic postulates of the definition of the functions of the Aet;

- (c) how many times the Southern Zonal Council has been convened since its inception, the reasons for which no meeting for the last one year has been held; and

(d) what steps have been taken so far on the Government's announced decision five years ago to activies the Zonal Councils with a view to realizing their full potential as meaningful instruments of inter-State cooperation and understanding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Government have seen the article which appeared in the 'Indian Express' of July 11, 1986.

(b) The Zonal Council Secretariat have not issued any such letter.

(c) IS meetings of the Southerm Zonal Council have been held ainee its inception in 1957. The next meeting of the Council is expected to be held shortly.

The schedule of meetings of other Zonal Councils and their Standing Committees and the convenience of the State Governments are considered while fixing meeting of a Zonal Coun-..cil.

(d) Constant eflorts are made to hold regular meetings of Zonal Coun-£ils and their Standing Committees. The agenda items for the meetings are broad-based and State Govern ments/U.T. Administrations/Central Ministries are given full opportunity to suggest items for inclusion in the agenda. Detailed agenda notes con taining views and suggestions of other States/coJncerned Centra! Ministry/ other organisations on the items are aiso circulated to all concerned. The Councils make recommendations on various issues after detailed deliberations which are taken up with the State Governments/Central Ministries for implementation the progress of which is also reviewed by the Standing Committee/Zonal Council at i*s next meeting.

Bogu$_s$ certificates for granting of Freedom fighters' pension

972. SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article 'Funds for frauds' appearing in 'Probe" *ot* July, 1986;

(b) if so, how many crores of rupees have been pilferred away by those who submitted bogus certificates;

(c) what are the names of those persons who have availed freedom fighters' pension by foul methods in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu;

(d)- what action has been initiated against such culprits; and

(e) what steps are being taken to find out whether the beneficiaries are the real freedom fighters in view of the serious charges made?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (ej A statement is annexed. Statement

Every effort is made to sanction pension to genuine freedom fighters after proper verification and careful scrutiny of the documents submitted by the freedom: fighters. The verification is generally done by the State Governments, who verify the authen- licity of documents/certificates with reference to available records and/or through local inquiry. However, where complaints are received suchi complaints are promptly referred to the concerned State Government for verification. In doubtful cases, where the complaint appears prima-facia I genuine, the pension sanctioned is suspended and show cause notice is issued to the pensioner. Such cases are finally reviewed on the basis of explanation received from the freedom fighters and the verification reports cf the State Governments. In case th$_e$ pensioner is found to have furnished false information the pension is cancelled and the State Government concerned is advised to recover the wrongly drawn amount of pension. Till now, more than 8000 cases have been suspended and more than 25M cancelled.

Generally, certificates issued by eligible certifiers are accepted as good if there is no complaint of indiscriminate certification by such certifier. If any complaint is received against any certifier, it is got verified. If, on inquiry, it is found that the certifier has given certificates to such persons who had not taken part in the freedom struggle, the certificates issued by such certificates are not realised upon in future.

The review of sanctioned cases is a continued process. All suspensr«» cases are not however, bogus cases. Some of the cases suspended are •» account of persons having an Income